

Family Joys Family Ministry Notes April 2009

As I write this letter my daughter is in Guatemala on a nine day mission trip. She is living with a host family learning about their culture and customs. As part of the mission team Sigourney will be building homes, helping in hospitals and orphanages, feeding malnourished infants and children, interacting with the children on the streets, and handing out food to the homeless and hungry. As she is working she, along with the rest of the service team, will be sharing and reflecting the love of Christ.

As parents we want our children to grow up to be kind, loving and caring human beings. My husband I taught our four children the importance of helping others, of being kind and considerate to how others feel. We taught them the fruits of the Spirit and modeled that behavior in the things that we did. Never did I think that any of my children would want to go and share that love outside of the United States.

Much to my surprise and amazement that is what my youngest daughter did. Sigourney left from Omaha on March 15 and flew for seven hours to be an example of Jesus' love to the people in Guatemala. Please keep her and the rest of the service team in your prayers.

How about us? Are we willing to travel around the world, across the borders or even outside our church doors to witness to the un-churched? As we look at our world today and the views of this world, there are so many things that need our immediate attention. The most important being those who don't know Jesus or believe that He died for them and that Jesus is their Savior.

As parents and grandparents in a family we need to model that love of Christ all over the world and most importantly right outside the doors of our homes and churches. We are so willing to stand up and cheer our favorite sports team, Hollywood star, American Idol, etc. Are we that willing to stand up and share our thoughts, beliefs, faith in the One True God?

As we get closer to celebrating the "New Life" that God has given us through the death and resurrection of His Only Son, let's think about how we can go and be those disciples, reaching out, teaching, and sharing the Good News of Our Lord and Savior. Lets remember the words of Jesus to His disciples as He left them and ascended into heaven; *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* Matthew 28:19-20.

Let's be willing to stand up and cheer for Jesus and go out into the world proclaiming God's love for all people. This is too important to leave for someone else to do; we all need to "GO."

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